COREAN HIGH JINKS.

An Imposing Ceremony Over a Deceased Queen.

China, Not to Be Cheated of an Opportunity for Display, Attends with Much Pomp and Circumstance.

Anybody who supposed the suzerainty which China claims in Corea to be a matter of small importance would be undeceived by the perusal of a recent article in the London Times. For centuries, it says, the kings of Corea have received investiture at the hands of the sovereign at Pekin, and all great political events, including the decease of royal personages, have been duly and ceremoniously reported to him. On the death of the queen dowager of Corea, in 1890, the king dispatched a message to Pekin to announce the sad event, and presented a memorial to the throne, in which he declared himself to be kneeling "before his majesty in great perturbation and awe." The Corean envoy spoke of Corea as a "vassal state of China," and went on to plead that in the then impoverished condition of the royal exchequer it would be an act of infinite grace on the part of the emperor if he would not impose on the king the expense of entertaining the mission of condolence which in other and happier circumstances it would be customary for the emperor to send. This was as if the pastor should implore the congregation to omit the too burdensome surprise party. But the emperor was jealous of his privileges, and the only concession he would make was to allow the mission to travel as far as possible by sea instead of overland and not to insist on the usual presents to the members of the mission. In other respects the thing was to be done in first-class style. Every preparation was made for receiving the mission at the port of Chemulpo, and conducting it to Seoul, eighty Corean miles distant. The roadway between the port and the capital was repaired, leveled and widened, and gravel of a yellow tinge was sprinkled over it in compliment to the imperial color. First in the procession came the mission receiver and the Corean officials in columns, one on each side of the road. * * * Next came the Corean escorts, the flags, symbols of authority, etc., yellow umbrellas, drums, gongs, and bands of music. Then came the incense, palanquins, and the shrine (on which was placed the emperor's letter), followed by the Chinese attendants, all of whom were mounted. The commissioners followed in their chairs side by side, and behind them marched the high and low deputies, with the supervisors and their attendants. A 12th of July procession was simply not in it with this. At the first halting place the imperial envoys were "kotowed" to by various Corean officials, including a personage called a "health inquirer," who had been appointed especially to ask after the health of the Chinese visitors.

Arriving at the Corean capital, the envoys and the letter of condolence were conveyed into the "hall of audience," where the ceremony took place, the king prostrating himself four times before the imperial shrine. At a funeral service conducted in memory of the deceased the king acted the part of chief mourner, and "wailed" at the bidding of the master of ceremonies until the time came for presenting the emperor's letter and presents to the departed queen. Then, in the midst of profound silence, these imperial testimonies of regard were committed to the flames and ascended in the smoke to the gods. The keys of the city gates were handed over to the visitors, who were thus made to feel in the most practical way that the town was theirs. In accordance with the agreement the Chinese refused the presents offered to them, but on leaving each envoy was furnished with four saddled horses and four grooms, three drivers, one umbrella bearer, two pathfinders, four attendants, four litter ponies, four litter pony grooms, four litter attendants, one chief chair-bearer and one sedan chair, with eight sedan chair bearers, one pony for carrying rain coverings, two servants, four conch blowers, four pipers and four horn blowers, four supervisors of flag signals, six gong beaters, and six first-class lictors, and two military officers in command of two detachments of escorts, twenty-two silk-embroidered flags, one petty official interpreter, one waiter, one cook and seven interpreters of the third order. We cannot help thinking that there is a pointer here for the next intercolonial conference. The health inquirer went along, too, and every now and then dropped on his knees and asked the envoys whether the interior arrangements were in good order. It is evident that the orientals are away ahead of us in the patience with which they submit to be bored. Here the health inquirer would be classed with the man who asks whether it is hot enough for you today.

UPROOTING ALPINE ROSES.

What One Swiss Canton Protects Another Pays for Destroying.

There is a reverse side to the beauty and popularity of the "Alpenrosen." A notice which has just run the round of the Swiss press states, says the Westminster Gazette, that the Canton of Appenzell Inner Rhodes has now followed some of the other Cantonal governments by prohibiting the plucking up of Alpenrosen by the roots. Hereupon the Vaterland of Lucerne remarks that the government of Canton Graubunden has done the clean contrary. It gives money every year for the rooting out of "Alpine roses," because on many of the Graubunden mountains they cover extensive ranges of land, which are thus rendered useless for cultivation or pasture. The Cantonal Bau-department pays considerable attention to this form of reclamation, and the uprooters of the romantic flower, who are regarded as barbarians in other Cantons, are there regarded as local patriots.

CHINESE VEGETABLES.

Several Likely to Be Useful Introduced in This Country.

In bulletin 67, just issued by the Cornell agricultural experiment station, Prof. Bailey gives some account of several garden vegetables which have been introduced into this country by the Chinese. The most valuable for American gardens, says Garden and Forest, is the so-called Chinese cabbage, pe-tsai. It is a plant with a loose, lettuce-like head of crisp leaves, which may be used in all the ways in which cabbage is served. It is an autumn vegetable, and requires a cool and moist soil. The same cultivation and attention are demanded for the Chinese mustard, which is an excellent plant for greens, and produces an enormous amount of herbage. California pepper grass, which was brought prominently into notice by John Lewis Childs in 1890, seems to be a finely cut leaved form of a mustard which has been long known in old gardens in this country, but has not been described either in American botanies or gardening books. It is one of the best of all plants for early spring greens. It is not known how or when the plant first came to this country, for, although it is cultivated in China and Japan, it does not appear to have been independently introduced from either of these countries in recent years. There are other mustard-like plants which have been introduced from China which possess less merit than the foregoing species for American gardens. Among them are the pak-choi, used as greens and for the thick white leaf-stalk; and the tuberous-rooted mustard, grown for its small turnip-like root. Of the cucurbitaceous plants introduced by the Chinese the best is the wax gourd, zit-kwa, the fruit of which is excellent for conserves. It is easily cultivated, but requires a long season. The lakwa, or Momordica charantia, is not new to the American city trade, but has more merit as a curiosity and an ornamental vine than as an esculent for our taste. The luffas, or dish-cloth gourds, are of two species, which differ chiefly in the contour of their fruits. The one best known has ribless cylindrical fruits, but the one chiefly cultivated by the Chinese in the neighborhood of New York has club-shaped ribbed fruit. These fruits are chiefly interesting because they yield a sponge-like fiber which is useful for household purposes. The tau-kok is a bean of some merit for late home use, but the Chinese pea has little to recommend it, and the other vegetables named have hardly any value for our gardens.

A FEAT OF ENGINEERING.

The Raising of a Railroad Bridge Without Interrupting Traffic.

The raising of a bridge in Switzerland upon the line of the International railway from Paris to Vienna has attracted considerable attention from the methods pursued. The occasion for the change, says Locomotive Engineering, was that the river crossed—the Rhine—had lost in the sectional area of the passage between the piers about 25 per